

MARCH 23, 1816.

Read twice and committed to a committee of the whole House on
Monday next.

A Bill

*Supplementary to the act, entitled "An act for the final adjustment of
land titles in the State of Louisiana and Territory of Missouri,"
approved April twelfth, one thousand eight hundred and fourteen.*

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the*
2 *United States of America, in Congress assembled, That any per-*
3 son, or the legal representatives of any person, claiming lands
4 in the State of Louisiana, or the Territory of Missouri, by
5 virtue of any incomplete grant, concession, warrant, or order
6 of survey, made or granted prior to the twentieth day of De-
7 cember, one thousand eight hundred and three, for lands lying
8 within that part of the State of Louisiana which composed the
9 late Territory of Orleans, or made or granted for lands lying
10 within the Territory of Missouri, prior to the tenth day of
11 March, one thousand eight hundred and four, where the claim-
12 ant, or the person under whom the claimant claims, was resid-
13 ingin the late province of Louisiana at the time aforesaid, or at

14 the time the grant, concession, warrant, or order of survey, was
 15 made or granted, all such persons shall be and they hereby are
 16 confirmed in their claims: *Provided*, That no claim shall be
 17 confirmed by virtue of this section, which shall have been
 18 adjudged to be antedated or otherwise fraudulent, by either of
 19 the boards of commissions, or a register or receiver of public
 20 moneys, or the recorder of land titles acting as commissioner,
 21 or which may hereafter be so adjudged by a register and re-
 22 ceiver of public moneys, or by the recorder of land titles acting
 23 as commissioner; nor shall any claim be confirmed which con-
 24 tains a greater quantity of land than the number of acres con-
 25 tained in one league square: *And provided also*, That nothing
 26 in this act shall in any manner affect the right of any person
 27 claiming land by virtue of a confirmation heretofore made.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That every claim to a
 2 donation of land within the said State, or Territory of Mis-
 3 souri, held or claimed by virtue of occupancy and cultivation,
 4 shall be, and the same is hereby confirmed, in all cases where
 5 the claimant shall produce to the register and receiver of public
 6 moneys in the said State, or to the recorder of land titles for the
 7 said Territory, satisfactory proof that the tract so claimed was im-
 8 proved or cultivated by the claimant, or by some person for the
 9 use and benefit of the claimant, on or before the tenth day of
 10 March, one thousand eight hundred and four: *Provided*, That

11 no tract claimed by virtue of this section shall exceed six hun-
 12 dred and forty acres, nor shall any person be entitled to a dona-
 13 tion who claims any other tract of land in the said State or Ter-
 14 ritory, except such tract be a town lot, or common field lot:
 15 *And provided further,* That every claim granted by this section
 16 shall be confirmed to the original claimant or his heirs in case
 17 of the decease of the claimant, and not to any purchaser or
 18 assignee under such claimant or heir, and that all deeds, con-
 19 veyances, assignments and contracts whatever, conveying or
 20 assigning any such claim made prior to the passage of this act,
 21 shall be, and the same are hereby declared to be null and void.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That any person claiming
 2 lands, or any town or village lot, within the said State or Terri-
 3 tory, and who has not filed his or her claims, with the board of
 4 commissioners, or register, or the recorder of land titles for the
 5 said State or Territory, shall be, and hereby is allowed until
 6 the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and seven-
 7 teen, to file such claim with the register or recorder of land
 8 titles for the said State or Territory, and to produce evidence in
 9 support thereof. And in all cases where the claimant may
 10 have filed notice of his or her claim with the board of commis-
 11 sioners, or register, or with the recorder of land titles, aforesaid,
 12 but has not produced proof in support thereof, or where the
 13 proof was incomplete, such person shall be and hereby is al-
 14 lowed until the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred

15 and seventeen, to produce to the said register and receiver for
16 said State, or to the recorder of land titles for said Territory,
17 testimony in support of such claim, and the registers and re-
18 ceivers for said State, and the recorder of land titles aforesaid
19 shall have the same powers and perform the duties in relation
20 to such claims as were vested in and performed by the board
21 of commissioners appointed to ascertain the titles to land in the
22 late Territory of Orleans, or District of Louisiana. And the
23 right of any person who shall neglect or refuse to file his or
24 her claims within the time limited by this act, or who shall ne-
25 glect or refuse to exhibit proof in support thereof, shall be for
26 ever barred, and the evidence of such claim never shall be
27 admitted against any grant from the United States.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That in all cases where, by
2 reason of adjoining prior claims, or the contiguity of the im-
3 provements of persons entitled to land by virtue of this act or
4 any former law, or where two or more persons claim the same
5 land, or part thereof, so that each claimant cannot obtain the
6 quantity of land to which they are entitled, or where the claim
7 shall not have been located, in all such cases it shall be law-
8 ful for the claimant to locate his or her claim, or the residue
9 thereof, on any of the public lands of the said State or Terri-
10 tory; *Provided*, That any person claiming the benefit of the
11 provisions of this section shall first obtain from the register

12 and receiver of public moneys, or the recorder of land titles for
 13 the said Territory, as the case may be, a certificate specifying
 14 the quantity of land the claimant may be entitled to locate;
 15 which certificate it shall be the duty of the registers and
 16 receivers of said State, or the recorder of land titles for the
 17 said Territory to issue to any claimant or claimants, whenever
 18 satisfactory proof shall be made to them respectively, by one or
 19 more credible witnesses, that such claimant is entitled to the
 20 benefit of the provisions of this section.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be lawful for
 2 the holder of such certificate to locate the quantity of land
 3 specified therein, under the direction of the surveyor of the
 4 lands of the United States, south of the State of Tennessee,
 5 or the principal deputy surveyor for the said Territory, whose
 6 duty it shall be to cause a survey to be made of the land so
 7 located, and shall make out a plat and certificate of the sur-
 8 vey, and return the same to the register and receiver of pub-
 9 lic moneys for said State within whose district the same shall
 10 be, or to the recorder of land titles for the said territory,
 11 who shall record the same in books to be kept for that purpose;
 12 *Provided,* That such claim shall be taken in one tract bound-
 13 ed by lines corresponding with the cardinal points, the length
 14 thereof shall not exceed the breadth by more than one half,
 15 except the survey shall be bounded on one or more sides by a

16 river or a prior claim, in which case there may be a deviation
17 from the figure aforesaid, so far only as may be rendered ne-
18 cessary by the causes aforesaid.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty
2 of the register and receiver, or the recorder, aforesaid, to
3 transmit to the commissioner of the general land-office, at the
4 end of every three months, a list of the claims confirmed un-
5 der this act, or the act to which this is a supplement, speci-
6 fying therein the names of the claimants, and the quantity of
7 land confirmed to them. And it shall be the duty of the
8 said register and receiver, or recorder, to make out a certifi-
9 cate of confirmation to each claimant entitled to land by virtue
10 of this act, or the act to which this is a supplement, which
11 certificate shall be under the hand of the register and receiver,
12 or the recorder; and where the certificate aforesaid corres-
13 ponds with the list transmitted to the commissioner of the
14 general land-office, a patent shall issue thereon according to
15 law; and in all cases where a location and survey is author-
16 ized by this act, it shall be the duty of the register and re-
17 ceiver, or the recorder of land titles aforesaid, to transmit to the
18 commissioner of the general land-office, a copy of the certifi-
19 cate of survey, signed by the surveyor of the lands of the
20 United States, south of the State of Tennessee, or the prin-
21 cipal deputy surveyor, and countersigned by the register and
22 receiver, or the recorder, which shall entitle the claimant to

23 a patent, which shall be issued by the commissioner of the
 24 general land-office, as in other cases ; and the surveyor, or
 25 principal deputy surveyor, shall receive for his services, the
 26 same fees and emoluments to which he is by law entitled to
 27 for surveying any of the public lands of the United States ;
 28 and the register and receiver, or recorder of land titles, shall
 29 receive for their services the following fees, to be paid by the
 30 claimant : for issuing a certificate of confirmation, or other cer-
 31 tificate required by this act, or the act to which this is a sup-
 32 plement, for receiving and recording a plat
 33 and certificate of survey, for recording the
 34 evidence exhibited in support of any claim, twelve and a half
 35 cents for every hundred words.

1 SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the location autho-
 2 rized by this act, shall not be made on any lead mine or salt
 3 springs, or land, reserved for the use of the same, or shall
 4 they be made so as to include any land claimed by any other
 5 person, claiming by any tenure whatsoever ; and no location
 6 made by virtue of this act, shall be taken or held to be an ap-
 7 propriation of lands until after the survey thereof is made by
 8 the principal deputy surveyor, and a plat returned to the re-
 9 corder of land titles.